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CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

Volume 53 No. 10

May 26, 2021

suggested donation \$1

MAY DAY 2021

COLOMBIA



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OUR FIGHT

- ★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.
- ★The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today’s world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.
- ★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.
- ★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.
- ★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.
- ★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.
- ★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.
- ★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.
- ★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.
- ★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

CHALLENGE/DESAFIO (ISSN 0009-1049) published bi-weekly by Challenge Periodicals. 1 issue \$1. One Year: \$20. Six months: \$15. Send address changes to CHALLENGE Periodicals, GPO Box 808 Brooklyn, NY 11202, May 26,2021•Volume 53 No. 10

Editorial

India: massacre by racist profit system

As bodies wash up on the banks of the Ganges river, mass cremation pyres light the sky, and Covid-19 patients die by the thousands for lack of simple oxygen, we need look no further than India to see the sickness of capitalism. Though India is the world’s leading maker of Covid-19 vaccines, less than three percent of its population is fully vaccinated. With 17 percent of the world’s population, the country “accounts for half of Covid-19 cases and 30 percent of deaths worldwide” (reuters.com, 5/12). As inter-imperialist rivals U.S. and China seesaw between vaccine nationalism and vaccine geopolitics, the profit system’s callous indifference to workers’ lives has been exposed as rarely before.

Whether they’re running so-called liberal “democracies” in the U.S., Europe, and India, or more openly fascist states like China and Russia, the capitalist rulers are showing their willingness to sacrifice millions of workers in their drive for maximum profits. Only with communist revolution, and by organizing society under the leadership of the international working class, can national borders be smashed—and the capitalist bosses along with them! Only then will life-saving oxygen, vaccines, and technical know-how be shared for our collective benefit. Only then can we have a truly healthy world.

Modi’s Covid massacre

As the pandemic’s current wave spreads from India’s overwhelmed cities to its countryside, where medical resources are almost nonexistent, the situation is getting steadily worse. On May 12 alone, Covid-19 deaths in India “swelled by a record 4,205 while infections rose 348,421 ... carrying the tally past 23 million, health ministry data showed. Experts believe the actual numbers could be five to 10 times higher, however” (reuters.com, 5/12).

While India’s bosses blame the country’s plight on a lack of supplies from the U.S. and the European Union, this Covid-19 disaster is rooted in capitalism, the brutal racism of India’s centuries-old caste system (intensified and codified under British imperialist rule), and a blatant disregard for workers’ lives. Pre-pandemic, public health spending stood at a dismal one percent of gross domestic product (Bloomberg News, 4/22).

Covid-19’s latest rampage in India is due in large part to the desperation and hubris of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the anti-Muslim racist who in January declared victory over the coronavirus. Facing rising opposition from within the Indian ruling class, Modi took a page from Donald Trump and Jim Crow Joe Biden and prioritized election campaigning over workers’ well-being. He encouraged religious ceremonies and sporting events that drew millions of closely packed people, most of them unmasked. In a few short months, India went from reporting 10,000 new cases per day to 400,000 (CNBC, 5/3), a number widely believed to be a huge undercount.

We can’t breathe

Though India supplied much of the world with oxygen over the first year of the pandemic (Economic Times, 4/21), it can’t supply its own hospitals for lack of infrastructure, from roads and train systems to essential storage capacity. Patients are being told to bring their own oxygen cylinders with them to the hospital (NPR, 5/5).

From Minnesota and New York City to New Delhi and Mumbai, hundreds of thousands of workers cannot breathe under the bosses’ brutal knees. Like human labor, the most basic and abundant elements of life—oxygen and water—are commodified by the imperialists in their vicious competition for maximum

profit. And like every process under capitalism, vaccine distribution is defined by racist inequalities. To date, 83 percent of the world’s vaccinations have been given in the wealthiest countries—and only 0.2 percent in the poorest ones. In the U.S., nearly half of all adults have received at least one shot. In Africa, only 1.3 percent have any protection (New York Times, 5/6).

U.S. bosses outflanked by China

The deep split in the U.S. ruling class has hampered efforts by the main-wing finance capitalists to use vaccine diplomacy to reassert the U.S. onto the world stage after Trump’s “America First” isolationism struck a chord with tens of millions of U.S. voters. With the 2022 midterm elections just a year and a half away, President Joe Biden only recently—and over the strenuous objections of the big pharmaceutical companies—waived intellectual property protections on vaccine patents, allowing the recipes to be shared with India and Africa (NYT, 5/8).

But without substantial help with vaccine production, quality control, and distribution, the waiver will be meaningless. As one legal expert noted, “We’re not talking about any immediate help for India or Latin America or other countries going through an enormous spread of the virus.” While U.S. officials are negotiating the text of the waiver, “the virus will be mutating” (statnews.com, 5/6).

Meanwhile, the more unified Chinese ruling class is filling the void. By the end of April, China had already sent 800 oxygen concentrators to India and was set to send 10,000 more (The Guardian, 4/29). China’s bosses recently scored a big win when the World Health Organization (WHO) approved the Chinese-owned Sinopharm vaccine for inclusion in WHO’s global initiative to vaccinate low-income countries (NYT, 5/7).

China is using its wealth “to broaden its global political influence” as part of its new “Health Silk Road,” a core component of its imperialist Belt and Road Initiative. (Foreign Affairs, 3/11). A year ago, the U.S. thought it had won a victory over China’s bosses when a former Indian health minister was elected to chair WHO’s executive board. The board “promptly supported calls to investigate the origins of the coronavirus,” which was widely seen as an attack on China (NYT, 12/24). But when the report was released in March, it failed to call out China’s early suppression of critical data on the pandemic, a measure of the Chinese rulers’ rising global influence (NYT, 4/7).

China and India are longtime regional competitors with an ongoing history of bloody border clashes. China recently moved to redirect rivers to generate vast amounts of power at India’s environmental expense. Even so, China’s vaccine diplomacy could expand its regional influence and possibly disrupt—or at least complicate—the U.S.-India alliance.

Fight for communism!

The Covid-19 pandemic has put a magnifying glass on the crimes of capitalism. It has never been clearer that the profit system stands for racism, sexism, disease, and needless death—and for a future of fascism and war.

Under communism, a system with no money, profits would never drive decisions on public health. Vaccines and medical and production expertise would be shared equally by all workers of the world. So while the bosses use oxygen, water, and vaccines as pieces in their inter-imperialist chess game, Progressive Labor Party fights for a communist world. We fight for a world where exploitation is abolished and decisions are made by and for the international working class—the class that creates all value. Join us!

★MAY DAY 2021★

BALTIMORE, May 1—Members and friends of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) held a virtual May Day event. It was streamed live, featuring poetry, music and short videos, along with commentary and discussion on the history of May Day, the ideas of PLP, and the importance of international working class solidarity. In addition, the program dealt with the struggle against police brutality, as killer cops continue to terrorize workers, with virtually no accountability. Yes, Derek Chauvin was found guilty for the racist murder of George Floyd. But, in the face of approximately 1,100 cop killings each and every year in the United States, there have been only seven murder convictions since 2005. That's a murder conviction rate of about one in 2,500. The capitalist billionaires who control the government need cops to protect them and their profiteering businesses. To get rid of killer cops, the whole capitalist system has to go.

New supporters lead May Day organizing

Members of our newly formed PLP study group spearheaded our streaming May Day this year. This is a significant advance and, when they're ready, we welcome these antiracist, anti-sexist fighters to join Progressive Labor Party and dedicate their life's work to the achievement of a truly working class-led world.

Streaming of Baltimore's May Day began with a documentary video about the pre-pandemic East Coast May Day marches – organized by Progressive Labor Party in 2017, 2018 and 2019 - live, out in the streets! Those powerful marches condemned the predatory capitalist system that harms and ex-

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ploits all members of the working class. Following that video, Tawanda Jones – who is the co-founder, along with other family members, of the West Wednesday Coalition – discussed the history of May Day. She described the brutal police killings of workers during May Day's founding, and how those same tactics are used against the working class today. Capitalism will never truly hold racist killer cops accountable. The system requires violence from cops to continue its exploitative existence. We need a revolution for working class power.

Next, a new supporter of the Party performed a spoken-word poem, touching on the history of May Day, how far we have come, and how far we still have to go to eradicate this capitalist system and replace it with communism. After that, a former member of Progressive Labor Party – who remains supportive of our revolutionary work – discussed the main communist ideas that drew him to the Party when he was in high school.

May Day builds international working class solidarity

The capitalist education system strives to keep workers divided and misled against our best interests. On the contrary, PLP builds working class solidarity to combat the capitalist bosses, as they continue to exploit our labor and accumulate stolen wealth. Events like May Day are an opportunity

for members of the working class to come together and celebrate our accomplishments as a collective, while not losing sight of the progress we must continue to make.

In accordance with May Day's core principle – worldwide unity of the working class – a key presentation was about the tremendous struggle in India (see the editorial, page 2) by farmers and farm workers, who make up 50 percent of India's population. Taking place during seven months in 2020 and 2021, their fight may have been the largest mass movement in all of human history, involving as many as 250 million people in just a single day of the nation-wide protests! As expected, in accord with profitable U.S. business investments in India – where the minimum wage is \$2.42 a day – the Joe Biden / Kamala Harris administration has supported the Indian government, led by fascist Prime Minister Modi, as they slaughtered and martyred over 200 of the agricultural protestors.

We played an electrifying, local music video, entitled No Justice, No Peace. It centers around efforts to combat the capitalist injustice system and includes inspiring images of confrontation after confrontation with politicians, police chiefs, lying medical examiners, and the Baltimore state's attorney. Then a powerful speaker, whose former husband was murdered by police, honored the father of her children, and gave compelling testimony about what we must do, to create the new world we need. Other segments of the program included a revolutionary dance performance, and a visual poem; both creative and beautiful.

Workers of the world unite! Fight for communism!

CHICAGO

CHICAGO, May 1 – Close to 100 members of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and friends gathered on the west side of the city today to boldly celebrate International Workers Day and our vision of a communist future. Working-class fighters of all ages – Asian, Latin, Black and white – united for the purpose of carrying out our most inspirational and well-organized May Day in years.

Over one year into a deadly and racist pandemic, workers worldwide are fired up. Our class is grappling with the wretched failure that is the capitalist profit system. Many more are growing dissatisfied with the passivity of voting and the bosses' offers of reform crumbs.

In short, workers seem more receptive to revolutionary communist struggle as the only path to our collective liberation. The international PLP is ready and willing to accept these eager fighters into our Party's ranks as we build the long fight for a communist world!

Communism on street corners

To kick our celebration off, we gathered on all four corners of a busy intersection in a multiracial, working-class neighborhood. Our collective has sold CHALLENGE newspaper and held rallies at this same spot for years and workers here have come to welcome our militant messages of fight-back and revolution.

With at least 15 rallying workers on each corner, we started giving rousing speeches on the bullhorn and leading bilingual chants in Spanish and English. Dozens of copies of CHALLENGE were flying out of our hands from cars stopped at lights and by workers walking past.

On display were dozens of colorful, revolutionary signs and banners celebrating the international working class and its mass PLP. Months of planning by Party committees were apparent with our variety of signs, flyers, creative new chants, and custom PLP red facemasks. Everyone present was quickly energized for our next move: taking the streets!

Whose streets? Our streets!

May Day marchers started filing off the corners onto busy Cermak Road. Our security contingent guided the pace and perimeter of the march and ensured our safety. We drew the attention of the

racist and sexist kkkops almost instantly. But they soon learned their intimidation tactics were not about to rain on our working-class parade.

The bullhorn speeches and chants continued as we marched west through the neighborhood. Our voices thundered down each block as we chanted, **"The only solution is communist revolution!"** and **"Asian, Latin, Black and white Workers of the world, unite!"**

Numerous workers along the route stepped out to raise their fists, record video, and take a copy of CHALLENGE. Some joined our march on the spot! We called out the names of many workers shot down by this vicious system, including those of Adam Toledo and Anthony Alvarez, two Latin youth murdered by the klan-blue in Chicago this year. The entire neighborhood heard it loud and clear that communism means an end to racist police murder!

Revolutionary optimism

After a mile-long march, we filtered into a nearby park to begin our program. Two newer comrades from PLP emceed, each giving speeches in which they described how the Party has provided them a vehicle for building community and fighting the racist bosses. They praised the multiracial, multi-generational character of the Party and the wisdom gained from struggling collectively in mass campaigns.

A healthcare worker then switched things up and led the crowd in a number of songs on their guitar, including "Talkin' Bout a Revolution" by Tracy Chapman. Two veteran PLP members, a teacher and a nurse, followed with speeches in which they shared the fightback on their jobs and in the



streets, and contrasted the racist and sexist brutality of capitalism with the revolutionary optimism of communism. We concluded our event with rousing renditions of the communist anthem "The Internationale" in Spanish and English.

As we socialized afterwards on the beautiful Saturday afternoon, the optimistic mood was evident. May Day is truly a revolutionary shot in the arm!

Onward to communist revolution!

In our post-May Day upswing, we know we must remain focused. We are making plans to incorporate new members into the Party and broaden our revolutionary battle against the profit system. Here's to another successful May Day!

All power to the international working class!

★MAY DAY 2021★



BROOKLYN

working class with inspiring original songs about worker fightback against capitalist brutality. Small group conversations at the end of the event gave people a chance to speak on the fightbacks they've been involved in recently, and ask questions about the Party.

Highlights of the virtual event included the main speech by a healthcare worker comrade about capitalism's war against our health and safety and the beauty and healing possible only with a communist future. After the event several workers shared how striking it was to hear a young comrade share about the loss of their mother to capitalist healthcare, and the funny and encouraging stories of fightback in their job as a health worker in a long-term care facility. Attendees also commented with interest on the presentation of PLP's history of fightback, which included historic photos and recounts of some successful battles against fascists and the bosses from the 1960s to the present. As one said, "I'd heard about some of these events on the news growing up, but I had no idea how many people were actually there and fighting for change".

Our communist victory!

The response of workers proves to both experienced and emerging working-class fighters that when workers are exposed to communist ideas, it resonates with them. PL'ers are here to show the international working class what communism looks like (multiracial, multigenerational, of all genders), and what communists believe: a shared vision for victory by workers worldwide, that one day every-day will be May Day!🇺🇸

BROOKLYN, May 1—The Progressive Labor Party (PLP) in New York City and New Jersey united a multiracial and multi generational crowd of over 200 fighters to march working-class power. **"Whose day? Our day!! What day? May Day!"** Several Black and Latin women workers gave speeches throughout the march. The essential message was loud and clear: **"The victories of the rich are not the victories of the international working class; putting worker needs at the forefront is our victory."** That's communism.

Communists marching by!

Curious faces responded with awe at seeing a multiracial group of women leading the energized march from the sound truck. Their voices amplified by loud speakers denounced the crimes of this capitalist system. This drew a lot of attention from workers coming out of stores, sitting by their apartment windows, walking on the street and riding by in cars,

buses, and motorcycles. Over a thousand passersby took CHALLENGE. Some made donations. Many others were receptive to the chants laid over the latest hits. Fists were raised in solidarity with the banner on the truck, **"The only solution is a communist revolution!"**

The workers witnessed PLP's blossoming red army taking to the streets. As we marched, many workers heard chants in Spanish, Hatian Creole, and English. Some workers joined the march. Workers are tired of this system. They want change.

Fight Back!

Later in the evening, more than 120 workers and youth joined us for a Virtual May Day celebration. The themes of the event included capitalism's war on our health, the history of May Day and 60 years of PLP fighting for communism. There were international greetings from PL'ers in Haiti and Mexico. We celebrated the wit and might of the international

BOSTON

BOSTON, MA—Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and friends organized three rallies and a car caravan to celebrate May Day and bring the revolutionary communist line of PLP to the workers of Mattapan and Dorchester.

Solidarity with workers from Haiti

The first rally in Mattapan square, an area where many Haitian immigrant workers live and have suffered extreme oppression and violence from ICE agents over the past few years, which has been ramped up by the Biden administration. Passer-by heard chants of, **"Working people have no nation, stop racist deportation!"** and **"The cops, the courts, the Klu Klux Klan, all part of the bosses' plan!"**

Many dozens of workers accepted May Day leaflets in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole, and copies of CHALLENGE, and some stopped to speak with PL members about our work.

smash capitalist exploitation

One comrade gave a speech on the fundamentally exploitative nature of capitalism and the need for all working people to come together to replace the whole system with communism, a system without wages and where all workers share in the wealth we produce. Another spoke of the nurses of the Boston Teachers' Union's frontline struggle in the fight against the deadly coronavirus, in which they succeeded in winning many of the safety measures that the local politicians wanted to deny our teachers and students. A guest speaker and local leader spoke of the U.S. imperialists and their reactionary activities in Haiti, and the monumental harm caused there by the U.S. bosses' never ending search for profits.

Next the PL'ers decorated their cars with red flags and revolutionary slogans and paraded

through the highly segregated neighborhoods of Dorchester, first to Fields corner and then Grove Hall, where more flyers and Challenges were distributed and speeches were made about the importance of rejecting the lies of liberal misleaders and joining with workers around the world to overthrow capitalism.

One PL'er gave a speech to underscore the historical importance of May Day, the militant struggle for the eight hour day in Chicago and around the world, and to expose the vicious repression of the Capitalist bosses and their killer cops and hired thugs. Another spoke about the role of police terror in maintaining the capitalist order and dividing the working class along racial lines, and the need to smash racism with multiracial unity.

At the end, members and friends gathered in Franklin Park to share food and experiences on bringing the revolutionary line of PLP to the workers here. Many drew inspiration at the warm reception of the PLP. Two new friends expressed joy that communism was on the lips of so many workers, and were grateful for the experience.🇺🇸

Reject Israeli Apartheid and Palestinian nationalism

ISRAEL-PALESTINE, MAY 12—As we go to press, war in Israel-Palestine is quickly expanding. In the last three days dozens of people have been killed including at least 14 children and hundreds wounded in the apartheid state of Israel-Palestine. The situation for the working class there is dire as our sisters and brothers are caught between the terrorism of the Israeli ruling class and the self-serving nationalist leadership of the Palestinian movement. The situation cries out for the unity of all workers to turn this war between the bosses factions into a movement for communist revolution and liberation of our class from capitalism.

The latest uprising by young workers and the massive attacks by the Israeli ruling class on Palestinian workers was set off by the attempted eviction of Palestinian workers from several neighborhoods in Jerusalem. The situation where Palestinian workers have been kept in extreme oppression has led to



many years of rebellion by young workers since the Israeli ruling class was put into power by the British and U.S. bosses. The Palestinian leadership has used the anger of young workers against the racist apartheid condition to build their own power and

wealth at the expense of the working class.

The current escalation of the war in Israel-Palestine is caught up in the combination of crisis in the Israeli ruling class which has been fighting among themselves, the needs of Iran which is backing the Hamas wing of the Palestinian ruling class and the bigger inter-imperialist rivalry involving the weakening U.S. bosses. This convergence of the capitalist crisis is threatening to not just escalate war in that part of the world but bring in bosses from other countries such as Turkey, Iran, and Russia.

The current overall volatility of the world situation where the U.S. ruling class is weakening and competing imperialists are moving into the U.S. bosses former sphere of influence make the situation in Israel-Palestine a possible start point for a much wider war (see more next issue).🇺🇸

MAY DAY 2021

NIGERIA

This May Day comes at a time when working class all over the world is groaning in pain and suffering from a global pandemic which is a result of capitalist competition and scheming for control of the world. The corporate elite stands to reap huge profits from the vaccine now being pushed worldwide (see editorial, page 2) and also from the inability of workers to organize as a result of lockdowns and quarantines to control the virus. The working class is therefore suffering great hardship in silence.

The working class in Nigeria is in a specially difficult situation suffering not just from the pandemic but also from an unprecedented insecurity due to ethnic intolerance which is leading to another fratricidal ethnic war. The ethnic elites of the major ethnic groupings in Nigeria do not seem to have learned anything from the last civil war, nor from Rwanda, nor from Libya, nor currently from the Central African Republic. The results of ethnic nationalism are mass slaughter. Young people must reject this path and the path of religion which equally sets them up. They need to study and use the invincible tool of Marxism - Leninism to build a better society.

Arise ye wretched of the earth! Arise ye starving masses of Nigeria! A new egalitarian Nigeria is possible. Working people of Nigeria and the world unite!✊



In Mexico, PLP comrades in Oaxaca participated in a torch demonstration in support of the Colombian working class. We consider this a great opportunity to join communist international forces led by the PLP. ¡Luche por el comunismo! Fight for communism!



On May Day, nearly 40 people, mostly young workers, took to the streets, making demands of the murderous state, with slogans of worker fightback. That same day, thousands of people took to the streets in different cities and towns in Colombia as a form of resistance to police brutality, censorship, and hunger.

We delivered the message that workers need a communist future, and that revolution is the only way to combat the sexism, racism and fascism that prevails in a capitalist world. To support our message we distributed CHALLENGE and talked with various people, known and new, about PLP's political line and encouraged followers to join the Party.

Although the presence of ESMAD (riot police) was threatening, with several people injured and killed in different parts of the country, we boldly marched with our collectives, young and old, carrying the red flag of communism and the chanting the Party's revolutionaryline as a friendly hand for the proletarian who walks, marches, shouts, and resists!

Colombia: workers rage vs. capitalist crisis

COLOMBIA, May 9—The ruling class here is in crisis and workers are fed up. Comrades from Colombia, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. met virtually for a first-hand account of the resistance and work of the party's colleagues in Colombia who were involved in the National Strike. These comrades have been battling the already known repressive measures of the fascists who govern Colombia. Then we brought together 20 people from different collectives, and produced the following report:

In the last week, Colombia has experienced the most violent moments in its recent history. The criminal government of Ivan Duque, sponsored by the paramilitary Álvaro Uribe Vélez, has murdered at least 37 people and has disappeared 89. This has resulted in nearly a thousand wounded workers by the systematic brutality of ESMAD (anti-riot police) as a policy of state repression.

There is fear generated on the streets by the homicidal response of the police and other defenders of the dictatorial regime prevailing in Colombia in the face of marches and rallies against a new tax reform bill and other forms of government exploitation. Yet, thousands of students, workers, young people, and indigenous people, among others, have taken the streets since April 28 to openly protest. They are rejecting the hunger policies imposed from the state, which proposed to tax multiple items essential to the survival of a working-class family up to 19 percent. Moreover, the incomes of millions in poverty, struggling daily for their survival would be able to afford even less.

Faced with protest—where singing, drumming, performance, and other artistic expressions predominate as a form of resistance—the police have opted for excessive brutality. They are using tear gas, stunners, and bullets indiscriminately against protesters. They have murdered those who called in unison for a dignified life for their families before the stunned but passive gaze of the international community. In addition, the use of unconventional weapons such as knives and hand-made guns by police and state-service paramilitary groups has been recorded by the protesters' phone cameras. Workers have not only been beaten and repressed, but they are also forced to witness the massacre of unarmed people who cry out for justice.

Workers reject crumbs

Due to pressure from a people resisting, Ivan Duque withdrew his abusive reform proposal to propose a "new" one that is still not finished. However, faced with this strategy aimed at appeasing the crowds enraged in dignity, thousands of Colombians tired of the deceptions of politicians and warlords, decided to stay on the streets. They have declared themselves Anti-Uribist as a clear anti-fascist expression in the face of the recalcitrant fascism that has spread in the country. Which has made violence and hunger the law. Health reform, the system-

atic killing of social leaders in the countryside and the city, cuts to education, and state corruption have become the flag of struggle for thousands of people, besieged by the inequality of savage capitalism.

First they loot us, then they blame us

The marches and meetings have been infiltrated by policemen without uniforms and paramilitaries, who have looted shops, housing, and state entities, among others, seeking to delegitimize the demands of the oppressed masses. Useless pacifism spread through the media mouth-piece condemns the beaten and gasped population. Instead, their executioners are defended and are said to be covered by retrograde law and the corrupt establishment. They repeatedly say phrases such as "that is not the way to protest." At no time is the excessive use by ESMAD (the anti-riot police) that attacks civilians with firing bullets criticized. The defenseless population use sticks and stones as their only tools.

In response to the servile media, owned by the big capitalists in Colombia, the cameras of the protesters' cell phones have become a weapon of resistance. Massacres in cities such as Cali, Bogota, Neiva, Medellin, and Pereira are being broadcast live to millions around the world. This is an X-ray of the archaic and dictatorial methods used to extinguish the voice of protest of oppressed people in urban and rural areas. Homicides committed in the countryside have easily been hidden due to the absolute control exercised by paramilitarism and the absence of agencies defending the fallacy of human rights.

The false argument that workers' protests are being "radicalized" is used to divide the people from their struggle for decent living conditions. In this way, the police are made out to be the victims. So, while the protesters are beaten and shot, pacifism is presented as the correct path.

Faced with the force of the protests, Ivan Duque has contemplated the militarization of cities facing criticism from agencies such as the UN, whose response has been null. Decree a state of "inner shock," which gives the president unlimited power has become an option to apply to return to the calm that favors capital.

Politicians have tried to seize the force of the strike, meeting with senior government officials to negotiate a way out. However, protest groups have shown they are not represented by these opportunists looking to sell out the fight in exchange for seats in parliament. A youth full of nonconformism have tried to restore dignity to a country looted by archaic elites.

The protest and violent events that have been labelled as anarchist. However, in PLP, we consider that the revolutionary ideas of young and old and everything that makes them question capitalist exploitation should be valued as the first flame of a communist revolution.✊

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.



San Francisco May Day

The mass San Francisco May Day march was organized by the The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). It was an inspiring event because it was a multi-racial march of thousands of workers arranged in dozens of trade union contingents. One Black speaker said that the current street murders by the police are just a continuation of the slave system over the past 400 years. Workers were very open to our leaflets and CHALLENGE newspapers, introduced as 'for international solidarity', 'for multiracial unity', 'for communism' and 'for worker's power'.

The Progressive Labor Party (PLP)

leaflet criticized the AFL leadership's support for imperialist war, its failure to organize immigrants in the U.S., and its failure to organize in Latin America where U.S. imperialism causes drought, oppression, and massacres of workers, forcing thousands to flee looking for safety in the U.S.

PL'ers and friends distributed 450 leaflets, 80 copies of CHALLENGE and made contacts to be followed-up with.

★★★★★★

My first May Day

This was my first May Day and it felt more impactful than I could have imagined. I was met in the streets by a multiracial and multigenerational crowd who immediately shared their experiences during May Day, our current plight in a capitalist system, and the importance of realizing the disparities that this system places on us throughout this pandemic.

As we marched, I watched a crowd of people chant antiracist, anti-sexist, anti-capitalist, and pro-working class chants in Spanish, Haitian Creole, and English. We weaved through the streets of Brooklyn, NY and were met by community members who joined our march and asked several questions. They were tired of this system and appreciated our message.

People in the streets were receptive and brought CHALLENGE with them as they continued through their day. I listened to worker's stories and felt immediate anger hearing the injustices they faced because of police terror. I knew that I was exactly where I needed to be.

We continued down Flatbush Ave. supporting each other and stepping up when other workers needed a break or help.

I needed that day. Everyone who was able to experience May Day at the march needed it too.

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Student's first May Day speech

After attending the 2021 Progressive Labor Party (PLP) May Day event, I felt part of a community with caring comrades. It was wonderful to give a speech related to the current conditions in the City University of New York, and I felt empowered, heard, and productive as a student organizer. I enjoyed the vivid display of red flags as we loudly asserted ourselves through music and chants.

I have never attended a May Day celebration before, but I will remember this event and keep it as a cherished memory. I am looking forward to attending the 2022 PLP May Day event!

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WORCESTER: WHO'S DAY? OUR DAY!

WORCESTER, MA—The May Day celebrations organized by the Progressive Labor Party (PLP), and co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Human Rights Commission, Tenants and Housing Alliance of Worcester (THAW) and others reflected our on the ground organizing in these groups, and was a protest involving three main issues:

The fight against the racist police killings of Black workers

The fight against the increasing racist attacks on Asian workers and the murder of an Asian man in our community

Supporting the nurses' strike at St. Vincent's Hospital for more staff and improved safety ratios for patients.

For this first PLP led May Day in Worcester, we were happy that 70 people came out to fight for justice. Since killer-cop Derek Chauvin was convicted of murdering George Floyd, police have developed new tactics to justify racist murders. With the exception of the PLP, no other group in Worcester has held a public rally against racist police murders this year. Racist attacks and terrorism against Asian workers have increased. We joined with an organizer from the Asian community to oppose openly and in public these racist hate crimes and call them out as a symptom of this racist capitalist system (see page 4).

Capitalism the main virus

One speaker called racist police killing a systemic health issue and he has worked with the Board of Health to set policies for police accountability. Health care is systemically racist. The main strike issue for the nurses at St. Vincent's is increased staffing and pa-



tient safety. These goals are in effect a model for a partial mitigation of racist health care. It is clear why the bosses want to break the nurses' mostly women worker-led, strike.

The PLP speaker raised the issue that capitalism is the foundation of racism, racist killings by police, and systemic racist/sexist healthcare. Communism and the end of resource inequalities is needed to end racist police killings and an end to systemic racist/sexist healthcare.

International revolution is the only solution

Our PL speaker pointed out that demonstrations are good but not enough. This racist, sexist, capitalist system cannot be reformed and it must be smashed with communist revolution. The inter-imperialist rivalries of the U.S. with China and Russia are beating the war drums over trade issues. Vaccine apartheid/imperialism is laying bare the murderous system of capitalism.

Our literature table with CHALLENGE was well received. Our rally and march were well received, too. Some folks, upon driving by, and seeing our red flags and hearing our chants, stopped to join our rally and march.

Progressive Labor Party then led a spirited march to join the St. Vincent nurses' picket line. The chants were spirited and our speakers were multiracial. As we marched to the nurses' picket line, we chanted:

"Same, enemy, same fight, workers of the world unite! Asian, Latin, Black and white, workers of the world unite!"

"No justice, no peace! No racist police!"

"Nurses, yes! Tenet No! Racist healthcare has got to go!"

At the nurses' line, our PLP member was invited to speak. We walked the picket line in solidarity with the nurses' antiracist goals of improved patient care. ☺

Glossary

Communist political terms

Fascism

Capitalism's response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the charade of liberal democracy and resort to more direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is marked by the ruling capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next inter-imperialist war.

Big Fascists

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multinational banks like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the major media companies. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multiracial military for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

Small Fascists

The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are less tied to controlling the flow of oil, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They're willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and the Air Force. They have used open racism to build a political following.

Correction

A Redeye item from the previous issue read, "Black households earn 88¢ for every \$1." It should've said, "U.S. racism shortchanges every Black household 88¢ for every white household's \$1."

Smash anti-Asian racism with multiracial unity

NEW YORK CITY—This spring as anti-Asian hate crimes came into focus for the main wing media, thousands of New Yorkers protested in Manhattan’s Chinatown where Progressive Labor Party (PLP) joined fellow workers in calling out the racist capitalist system that fosters these types of attacks. The protest was sparked by the March 16 mass shooting in Atlanta, GA where eight workers, including six women immigrant workers were shot and killed by a gunman. At the New York protest, amidst an integrated crowd of Black, Latin, Asian and white workers, PLP responded to speeches calling for the misleadership of liberal and Democratic politicians by distributing copies of CHALLENGE and holding a rally nearby that put our communist and revolutionary line front and center.

Asian, Latin, Black, and white: Workers of the World Unite!

At the rally, Andrew Yang, a former Democratic presidential candidate and current mayoral candidate took the mic. He promised to put more funding into the city’s New York Police Department (NYPD) Asian Hate Crimes Task Force if elected, to which the crowd chanted “Defund the police!”

Protesters pointed out that police have not protected Asian American workers in the past, and PLP added that they have never been on the side of the working class! The same Klan in Blue that murdered so many Black and Latin workers—George Floyd, Eric Garner, Shantel Davis and so many more. This is the same NYPD that liberal politicians are saying will “protect” Asian lives. The NYPD however has proved to be no friend to Asian workers - not now, not ever.

In 2017, a 38-year-old sex worker from China, died after she fell from a four-story window as officers were trying to arrest her during an NYPD raid on a massage parlor. In 2014, NYPD officers beat Kang Wong, an 84-year-old man for jaywalking on the Upper West Side.

At the protest the multiracial crowd was not fooled by Yang’s misleadership. Workers don’t need more or better policing - there is no such thing as better policing. Workers need an international communist revolution that delivers to each worker based on need, from each worker based on ability.

Multiracial unity shuts down liberal misleaders and myths

PLP and our class brothers and sisters cannot be fooled by the bosses’ attempts to pit Black, Latin, and Asian workers against one another. Despite the racist trope that Asian-Americans are a “model minority,” capitalism thrives off the super-exploitation of many Asian workers, just as they super exploit Black, Latin, and immigrant workers.

One quarter of Asian residents in New York City live under the poverty line (NBC News, 10/21/20). The true purpose of the unscientific “model minority” myth is to blame Black and Latin workers for their own suffering, when in actuality it is anti-Black racism and capitalism that paves the way for bosses to launch racist attacks against all workers.

Anti-Asian racism is fueled by U.S. imperialism, which was only able to take hold through the enslavement and exploitation of Black people worldwide. The fight against anti-Black racism must therefore be at the center of the struggle, just as Black workers are key to our revolutionary fight back.

That’s why PLP organizes a multiracial working class. Communism will win when workers internationally unite!

Covid-19 pandemic adds gasoline to racist flames

The recent wave of anti-Asian racism during the Covid-19 pandemic is not a new trend. In response to an influx of Chinese immigrants in the 1850s, the U.S. government passed its first major immigration law—the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882—suspending Chinese immigration for over 60 years and making Chinese immigrants ineligible for naturalization. This law reinforced the racist trope of “Asians coming to steal jobs from white workers,” when in actuality it is capitalism that leaves all workers without sustainable means of living.

Similarly, in 1900, an outbreak of the bubonic plague struck San Francisco. It is likely that the outbreak began with a ship from Australia, but since the first stateside victim was an immigrant from China, the whole Chinese-American community was blamed for it and police violence followed overnight.

Over 120 years later, Asian workers are again being scapegoated and victimized during the Covid-19 pandemic. At the most recent protest, to show a truly working-class, antiracist response to the attacks, a group of PLP members and supporters led a rally to drive the politics of the mainstream march towards our revolutionary and international line.

One comrade gave his prepared speech and others led chants such as **“Asian, Latin, Black and white, workers of the world unite!”** on the bullhorn as hundreds walked by and we distributed nearly 240 copies of CHALLENGE. We also handed our bullhorn to a worker in the street, who led a chant of “No more hate!”

Comrades voiced the anger and fear they feel for family and friends in light of the recent racist attacks and named communism as the only answer to ending these racist attacks. We denounced the anti-Asian racism as the same racism that our Black and Latin students face in racist Department of Education schools and called for an international, integrated, worker-led revolution worldwide! Join PLP! Fight Racism!🇸🇶



RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Abbreviations

NYT= New York Times
GW=Gaurdian Weekly

Slavery spawned U.S. racial Black-white wealth gap of \$11 TRILLION

NYT, 5/4 Elimination of the wealth gap between Black and white Americans....is enormousa total of \$11 trillion....

Those numbers are derived from...the Federal Reserve 2019 Survey of Consumer Finances.... The median Black household was worth only \$24,100; the median white household, \$188,200.

But if compar[ing] Black and white wealth...for the average household in each community, the difference was \$840,000;...for Black households was \$142,500; for white households, \$983,400, close to a million....

...Black American descendants of persons enslaved ... constitute about 12 percent of the nation’s population but own less than two percent of the nation’s wealth.

U.S. rulers’ Agent Orange war poison never ends

NYT, 5/2 ... the Vietnam War ended on April 30,

1975. While some Americans may...forget its atrocities...Agent Orange victims still demand attention.

Between 1962 and 1971, the U.S. military employed approximately 19.5 million gallons of herbicides in South Vietnam ...destroyed five million acres of Vietnamese forests and damaged about 500,000 acres of cropland.

The herbicide contains dioxin, one of the most toxic substances known to science, which ... contaminated soil and sediment of water bodies for decades....The contamination had spread to fish and shrimp, and from there to more people.

On Jan. 26, a French-Vietnamese woman and victim of Agent Orange brought a case against 14 chemical giants...for...making or selling Agent Orange.

At 79,...Ms. Tran To Nga...has cancer, high iodine levels in her blood and genetic abnormalities.... Her children were born with genetic abnormalities; one died when she was only a few months old....

...Innocent people exposed to herbicides sprayed from American military aircrafts in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia have been overlooked for nearly half a century.....[They] are among the

several million Vietnamese estimated...to be living with the horrific consequences of the defoliant campaign.

Racism cuts life expectancy for Black families, cut even shorter by COVID-19

NYT Magazine 5/2 Chicago...has the country’s widest racial gap in life expectancy: In ... Streeter-ville ...which is 73 percent white, residents live, on average, to 90 years old; in Englewood, where 95 percent of residents are Black, people live to an average of only 60.

...Black lives have been cut even shorter by Covid-19....[and] have been hospitalized with Covid-19 at nearly three times the rate of white Americans, and the death rate is twice as high. In the first six months of the pandemic, the average lifespan of an American declined by a full year....But Black life expectancy plummeted...by nearly three years ...

In Englewood...57 percent of households earn less than \$25,000 a year. Streeter-ville... has a median income of \$125,000...Englewood ... has among the city’s highest rates of deaths from heart disease and diabetes, as well as rates of infant mortality and children living with elevated blood-levels....

LA MAY DAY

FIGHT TO SMASH RACIST POLICE TERROR WITH COMMUNISM



LOS ANGELES—The 12 months since last May Day has been a hell of a year for the working class of the world. With Covid-19, continued police murders and brutality , unemployment, and lack of housing ravishing working-class communities, especially Black, Latin and Asian, it can be hard to imagine creating a better world for all of us. But May Day reminds us that we have a communist world to win and we can join together with our class brothers and sisters to fight to achieve that goal.

In Los Angeles, May Day was a coming together of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members and our friends to commemorate the struggles of our past comrades and highlight the continuing battles PLP is helping to lead. Through our work within two mass organizations, one dedicated to giving voice to the families of those murdered by the police, and the other a tenants’ union fighting racist gen-trification, we were able to celebrate May Day in a community park and lead a car caravan to the Los Angeles Police Department Headquarters.

Celebrating a year of struggle

The park where May Day was held is located in the community that the Party has been organizing in for over a year and a half with the Flores family, whose son Alex was ripped from them by LAPD thugs. Members of the community stopped by to listen to our speeches and songs. The park was filled with a multi-racial crowd of 70 people, young and old, all familiar with the Party through its work within the mass organizations.

The May Day program included

songs, poems and speeches about the history of May Day and why it is important for every member of our class to join PLP. The calls for a communist revolution were loud and clear. The program was co-led by Alex's sister. Over the course of the struggle, she and others in her family have become increasingly convinced that this system can never provide a viable future for the working class. Anti-racist and anti-sexist speeches and songs were enthusiastically applauded. Clearly working-class unity between Black, Latin, white, young, old, men and women, LGTBQ+ and straight, is necessary to build a revolutionary movement.

Healthcare workers joined the event and contributed their musical talents with drum beats to accompany a comrade with spoken word. Students and teachers from high schools where Party members work attended the event and contributed with both prepared speeches and their thoughts during an open mic session. The highlight was the break-out sessions in which people met in small groups to discuss “**What does justice look like?**” This

question was asked because there are so many families still seeking “justice” with our leadership and they are starting to wonder if justice can ever be accomplished under this system. Party members spoke about the need to overthrow this capitalist system and replace it with communism as the only path to “justice.”

The May Day program was followed by a powerful caravan of cars with signs, led by a sound truck. As we drove towards the LAPD Headquarters we were greeted with cheers and fists in the air from the people in the community. The Party, five of the families and others gathered in front of the LAPD headquarters where we confronted the cops, who were out in full riot gear. The families boldly called out the outfit responsible for assassinating their loved ones. A Party member's call for communist revolution to smash racist police murder was enthusiastically applauded.

Hard work & sharp struggle leads to advances

PLP has been involved in struggles against police terror for many years. In LA, we have been able to work directly with several victims’ families during the past year. These families have led regular rallies and protests in front of the New-ton Police Station. Not only do the fami-lies speak about their experiences with the racist LAPD and the County Sheriffs, but we show our strength by taking over the street and collectively confronting the police. We have also been active in a com-munity based campaign supporting an evicted family who has boldly reclaimed their home after being thrown out by the same racist enforcers of the profit system that murder our brothers and sisters. All of these actions have always been welcomed and supported by workers who live in these areas.

Racist police terror affects all working-class people, but disproportionately Black, Indigenous and Latin workers, as May Day speakers pointed out. The role of the police is to protect profits and private property, to physically and mentally oppress workers, especially Black and Latin workers, and to divide the working class in order to uphold this racist capitalist system. Multiracial unity is es-sential to the struggle against the police and capi-talism.

Leading up to May Day, two workers began meeting with a Party club and are moving closer to joining the Party. Hundreds of people were ex-posed to communist and antiracist politics, and more people understand the strength of the work-ing class when we unite. The future here looks bright for the growth of PLP and our movement to rid the earth of the exploiters and their henchmen in “law enforcement.” ✖

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